DIFFERENT CIRCUIT SETUPS

There are two main ways that loads can be connected in electric circuits - in series and in parallel.

**SERIES**

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| The loads (e.g. light bulbs) can be connected in series. In this type of circuit, there is only one path for the electrons to follow. If one bulb burns out all of the other lights go out because the circuit is broken. Voltage stays the same (but is shared amongst each load), resistance increases & current decreases across the circuit as you add more loads in series |

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| **PARALLEL**    Loads can also be connected in parallel. In this type of circuit the electrons have at least two possible paths to follow. If one light bulb burns out, the other light bulbs will remain lit because each one has a separate path to the energy source. Voltage stays the same, resistance decreases due to multiple paths & current increases as you add more loads in parallel. |  |